Libry

-4 DEC

BOROUGH OF BIDEFORD.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

ON

THE HEALTH OF BIDEFORD

VITAL STATISTICS,

SANITARY WORKS, &c.,

FOR THE YEAR

1956

BY

C. J. CAREY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (LOND).,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

A. E. T. NETTING, M.A.P.H.I., CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

BOROUGH OF BIDEFORD.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON

THE HEALTH OF BIDEFORD

VITAL STATISTICS,

SANITARY WORKS, &c.,

FOR THE YEAR

1956

BY

C. J. CAREY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (LOND).,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
A. E. T. NETTING, M.A.P.H.I., CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Public Health Staff

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :
C. J. CAREY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (LOND).
(*Temporary part-time*).

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

INSPECTOR OF MEATS AND FOODS
HOUSING OFFICER
PETROLEUM OFFICER
A. E. T. NETTING, M.A.P.H.I.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
E. J. BLACKLOCK, M.A.P.H.I.

To the Bideford Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor and Councillors,

I have pleasure in presenting herewith my Annual Report for the year ended Dedember 31st, 1956.

It will be seen from the Statistics that the Health of the Borough remains good. The figures given compare very favourably with the previous year, and with those for the country in general. The Vital Statistics show a slight fall in the estimated population, and a rise in the birth rate and the number of deaths in the district. Of the 168 deaths recorded, 125 were over the age of 65 years, and the commonest cause of death was cardiac and allied diseases. There were 28 deaths from Cancer and other Malignant diseases. The total number of people on the Tuberculosis Register was 125, giving a figure of 12.25 per 1000 of the resident population. During the year, 39 visits were made to interview applicants for Council Houses, in order to assess Medical priority, on certificates submitted by local Practitioners.

I am pleased to state the district continues to hold its own as a Health Resort as will be seen from the General Statistics given in the several Tables.

I am,

Mr. Mayor and Councillors,

Yours faithfully,

C. JOHN CAREY

Annual Report

General Statistics.

Area (Statute Acres)	4,068
Population) Census 1951)	10,200
Registrar-General's Estimate of Population, 1956	10,200
Number of Inhabited Houses	3,650
Rateable Value	£160949
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (approximate)	£643

Vital Statistics.

Live Births	Legitimate—Males 65 Females 65 Illegitimate—Males 7 Females 4	141
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population		13.82
Still Births	Legitimate Males 4 Females — Illegitimate Males — Females 1	5
Still Births, Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births		34.25
Deaths—Males 90, Females, 78		168
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population		16.47
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	Puerperal Sepsis Other Puerperal Causes	—
Deaths from Puerperal Causes, Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births		—
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :— All Infants per 1,000 live births (2 deaths)		14.18
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		14.18
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate Live Births		Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)		28
,, Measles (all ages)		—
,, Whooping Cough (all ages)		—
,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		—

Laboratory Facilities

Comprehensive laboratory facilities are available through the District Pathologist at the North Devon Infirmary at Barnstaple. Full and rapid service is readily available.

The Blood Transfusion Service is centred at the District Laboratory and serves the whole North Devon Area.

Bacteriolological examinations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter.

Ambulances

The Ambulance Service is under the Control of the National Health Service. Modified Group Control is now in operation and all journeys in the North Devon area are co-ordinated through the Barnstaple Ambulance Station. Two motor ambulances are stationed in Bideford for the transport of non-infectious cases. The Isolation Hospital maintains an ambulance which is reserved specifically for cases using that Hospital.

Nursing Arrangements for Bideford Area

The Home Nursing Service is carried out by three District Nurses who combine general nursing with midwifery duties. Their work is of a high standard and there is full co-operation with General Practitioners of the area.

Clinics and Treatment Centres

A Chest Clinic is established at the North Devon Infirmary at Barnstaple. The treatment of Tuberculous patients is conducted by the Chest Physician at the Chest Centre, North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple. A comprehensive follow up scheme for all patients and contacts is directed by him at Barnstaple and Bideford Hospital. Hawley and Hawkmoor Sanitoria serve the area for patients requiring hospitalisation.

A Special Treatment Centre for the treatment of Venereal Disease is at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple.

Hospitals

The Bideford area is provided for by the Bideford and District Hospital. The Hospital is for Medical and Surgical cases and maintains 52 beds. Specialist Services are available at clinics held in the Hospital. The Consultants direct the treatment of cases admitted as Inpatients. The Isolation Hospital, now called The Kingsley Hospital, situated East the Water, provides for infectious cases from the whole of the North Devon area This Hospital is well situated for the admission and treatment of any infectious cases arising in the Bideford area, requiring Hospital Care.

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Care

Ante-natal and post-natal clinics are conducted by each General Practitioner in the area, in co-operation with the Midwives. Specialist facilities are available at Barnstaple.

Blind Persons

The number of registered blind persons in the Bideford Borough is 21. Causes of disability—Cataract, 4 ; Glaucoma, 2 ; Optic Atrophy, 1 ; and other causes 14.

There were no cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum notified during 1956.

Infectious Diseases and their Control

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year ;—

Measles	69
Tuberculosis	5
Scarlet Fever	4
Pneumonia	1
Erysipelas	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	1

Vaccination and Immunisation

Vaccination against Smallpox and immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough are carried out by the General Practitioners of the area, and also at the Welfare Centres and School Clinics.

Poliomyelitis vaccination is carried out under the Devon County Council Scheme. Only a limited number of children were vaccinated during the year owing to insufficient vaccine being available. The selection was made at national level according to the month and year of birth.

Legislation in Force

ADOPTIVE PUBLIC GENERAL ACTS	
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890	15th June, 1893
Private Street Works Act, 1892	
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907—	
Parts 2 (except Sec. 29), Parts 3, 4 and 6	
Parts 7 (except Secs. 82, 84, 85 and 86)	
Parts 8, 9 and Part 10 (except Sec. 94)	April, 1909
Public Health Act, 1925, Part (except sections 21 and 22)	1st January, 1926
Section I of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 applied to Sheep, Ewes, Wethers, Rams and Lambs (as regards old area)	1st February, 1934
Ditto (as regards Borough as extended)	1st July, 1935

Byelaws

With respect to Markets	16th February, 1882
With respect to the Driving of Cattle	5th March, 1888
With respect to the Obstruction of Foot-passengers	8th August, 1892
For the navigation of the River Torridge within the Harbour of Bideford	4th July, 1894
With respect to the Lighting of Vehicles	11th November, 1899
With respect to the disturbance of persons assembled in public buildings, shooting-galleries, round-a-bouts, etc., street music and bad language	25th June, 1900
Prohibiting Spitting in Public Places	31st January, 1911
With respect to the Victoria Park Pleasure-Ground	18th January, 1913
With respect to New Streets	10th July, 1928
With respect to the Management of the Public Cemetery (Repealed in Part)	18th August, 1930 and 12th June, 1947

Regulating the use of Motor Boats within the Harbour	17th August, 1931
Relating to Violent Behaviour on Elementary School Premises	1st April, 1951
For the Regulation of Advertisements	3rd December, 1939
With respect to the Decent Conduct of Persons using Public Sanitary Conveniences	1st April, 1937
With respect to ;—	
(1) Nuisances contrary to Public Decency	
(2) Deposit of litter to the Detriment of Public Amenities	
(3) Wireless, Loudspeakers, Gramophones, etc.	1st February 1937
For securing the observance of Sanitary and Cleanly Conditions and Practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food	15th November, 1950
With respect to the Supply of Water	1st April, 1951
Sale of Contraceptives in Slot Machines	18th January, 1950
Prohibiting cycling on certain footpaths	1st April, 1951
With respect to Victoria Park	1st February, 1953
With respect to the Fouling of Footpaths by Dogs	15th June, 1953
With respect to Library, Reading Room and Museum	18th September, 1953
With respect to Cycling on the Riverbank	9th November, 1953
With respect to Building Byelaws	31st December, 1953

TABLE I.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Disease	Total Cases Notified													Total Deaths								
	Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 and over	Total	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and over	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	1	—	3	nil.	—	1	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	5
Measles	—	8	5	5	9	32	9	—	—	—	1	—	69	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE II.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1956 AND PREVIOUS 5 YEARS

Years	Estimated population for Year	Births.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District			
		Nett				Under 1 year of age		At all Ages	
		Number	Rate per 1000	Number	Rate per 1000 population	Number	Rate per 1000 births	Number	Rate per 1000 population
1951	10200	167	16.37	187	18.33	3	17.96	187	18.33
1952	10170	152	14.95	143	14.06	3	19.74	143	14.06
1953	10210	146	14.29	152	14.89	5	34.25	152	14.89
1954	10300	159	15.44	148	14.37	5	31.45	148	14.37
1955	10220	136	13.31	140	13.70	1	7.35	140	13.70
1956	10200	141	13.82	168	16.47	2	14.18	168	16.47

Nett deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.

	All Ages		Under 1 year		1 and under 2 years		2 and under 5 years		5 and under 15 years		15 and under 25 years		25 and under 35 years		35 and under 45 years		45 and under 55 years.		55 and under 65 years		65 and under 75 years		75 and under 85 years		85 and under 95 years		95 and over.	
	M	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F	M.	F.	M.	F	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Tuberculosis-Respiratory	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other infection and parasitic disease	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	3	3	3	3	—	1	—	—
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diabetes	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	7	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	3	4	4	9	—	2	—	—
Coronary disease, angina	16	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	4	1	9	—	1	1	1	2	—	—
Hypertension with heart disease	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—
Other heart diseases	18	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	5	5	5	4	5	8	—	—
Other circulatory diseases	10	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	6	1	—		1	—
Influenza	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	3	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	4	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	4	—	—	—	—
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
All other accidents	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Suicide	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	90	78	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	1	3	—	4	6	13	10	28	19	31	24	6	16	1	—

TABLE IV.—OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases.			Vision not Impaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
Notified	Treated					
	At home	In hospital				
NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

TABLE V.—TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	3	—	—	1	—	—	—

TABLE VI.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year.

Causes of Death	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 to 12 months	Total Death under 1 year
Pneumonia	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Totals —	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2

ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR

To His Worship The Mayor and Members of the

BIDEFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mr. Mayor and Councillors,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Fifth Annual Report on the sanitary administration of the area.

During the year routine work proceeded slowly, Meat inspection at the slaughterhouse continuing to absorb a very great amount of inspectorial time in maintaining one hundred per cent examination of carcase meat and offals. The White Paper on the Government Policy to regulate the provision of slaughterhouses was considered by the Council and having regard to the progress and enterprise of the Company occupying the Slaughterhouse it was decided to discuss with that Company the provision of necessary improvements and extensions. By the close of the year, a scheme for improving the general lighting of the premises had been agreed and proposals for extending the buildings to provide increased hanging space and enlarged slaughtering and penning facilities for pigs and sheep were being discussed.

The coming into operation of the Food Hygiene Regulations added further to the work of the department. Further reference to these Regulations is found later in this Report.

In the sphere of Housing, the Council gave consideration to the condition of the houses in Three small areas. Two of these were declared to be Clearance Areas and the Third was still the subject of consideration.

The question of making improvement grants in accordance with the Housing Act 1949 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 was again considered and the decision taken to favourably consider applications. Two enquiries relative to grants were received following this decision, but only one enquirer proceeded to draw up any proposals which were incourse of preparation at the end of the year.

A swimming bath was brought into full operation during the year at a local private college and was used by other schools. Visits of supervision were made and advice as to measures of control given. A high degree of bacterial purity of the water was maintained.

The work of the Public Health Department was the subject of two talks given to a section of two local secondary grammar schools. Nothing but good can come from talks of this nature and it is intended to extend them as found possible.

Summaries on succeeding pages indicate the number of inspections made, notices served and repairs and improvements effected.

In addition it is of interest to record that interviews were given to approximately 1020 callers at the office in connection with complaints, repairs and housing accommodation problems.

During the year the Sanitary Inspectors (Change of Designation) Act, 1956 was placed on the Statute Book and provided that Sanitary Inspectors be designated Public Health Inspectors.

At the same time and arising out of the recommendations of the Working Party on the recruitment, training and qualifications of Sanitary Inspectors the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board was reconstituted as the Public Health Inspectors Education Board. The objects of the new Board may be summarised as follows ;—

(i) to examine for and issue a Diploma in Public Health Inspection as the basic qualification to be recognised by the Minister ;

(ii) to examine for other certificates it may consider necessary for public health inspectors ;

(iii) to approve courses of instruction for all of its examinations ;

(iv) to approve local authorities for the purposes of practical training ; and

(v) to keep under review all questions relating to the recruitment, training and examination of public health inspectors.

With regard to paragraph (iii) local authorities are reminded of the Working Party's recommendation that the sysyem of paid pupillage for public health inspectors should be extended with the prospect of its ultimately becoming the normal avenue of entry, except for ex-Service candidates, and that practical training for student inspectors should be obtained in the service of local authorities approved for the purpose by the new Education Board. The Minister supports the view of the Working Party that the best training is obtained by those students who are engaged by a local authority specifically as pupils or student public health inspectors and has no doubt that local authorities will bear the recommendation in mind, and consider the advantages of adopting a system of paid pupillage or, where appropriate, of extending existing arrangements.

At the time of compilling this report the nearest centre for theoretical training is Plymouth, rather far from this District to facilitate concurrent practical and theoretical training. A proposal to set up a course of training at a centre in a neighbouring town was mooted during the year but was abandoned owing to lack of support.

DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS

Dwellings inspected under Public Health Acts	92
Revisits made under Public Health Acts	159
Miscellaneous under Public Health Acts	191
Dwellings inspected under Housing Acts	30
Revisits made under Housing Acts	73
Miscellaneous under Housing Acts	57
Council Houses (including investigation of Council House Applications)	236
Housing Act (Overcrowding)	1
Housing Act (Improvement Grants)	2
Housing Act (Improvement Grant) Revisit	1
Caravan	1
Meat Inspection	1032
Inspection of Food and Food Premises	66
Inspection of Street Traders Vehicles	4
Inspection of Food Vans	2
Inspection under Milk and Dairies Act	7
Revisits under Milk and Dairies Act	5
Inspections at Pannier Market and Butchers Row	13
Factories	15
Factories—Revisits	15
Shops Act	2
Water Samples—Bacteriological	104
Water Samples—Bacteriological (Swimming Bath)	1
Water Samples—Chemical	6
Water Supply—Investigations	7
Inspection of Swimming Bath	2
Petroleum	10
Infectious Diseases	5
Infectious Diseases—Revisit	1
Drainage	156
Marine Store	1
Mortuary	1
Accumulation	1
Smoke Observation	1
Rodent Control	47
Rodent Control—Miscellaneous	1
Number of Preliminary Notices served	61
Number of Preliminary Notices completed	48
Number of Statutory Notices served under Public Health Act	2
Number of Statutory Notices completed under Public Health Act	1
Number of Notices served under Food Hygiene Regulations 1955-56	9

Number of Notices completed under Food Hygiene Regulations 1955-56	5
Number of Notices served under Factories Act	8
Number of Notices completed under Factories Act	8
Number of Houses demolished voluntarily by owners	5
Number of Notices served under Shops Act	1
Number of Notices completed under Shops Act	1
Number of Notices served under Milk and Dairies Order	2
Number of Notices completed under Milk and Dairies Order	1
The chief defects that have been dealt with are ;—	
Roofs of dwelling houses repaired	39
Roofs of garages repaired	3
Defective doors repaired	46
Defective door locks repaired or renewed	48
New windows fitted	2
Defective window frames repaired and sashcords renewed	42
Defective stacks repaired	2
New floor laid	1
Defective floors repaired	7
Defective stairs repaired	10
Exterior plastering repaired	13
Interior plastering repaired	16
Ceilings repaired	3
New W.C. provided	2
New W.C. pans fitted	10
Defective W.C. seats repaired or renewed	17
W.C. Lights fitted	2
Defective flushing cisterns and overflows repaired	87
Defective eaves, gutters and downpipes repaired	15
Defective vent pipe repaired	1
Choked drains cleared	26
Defective drains repaired	7
New manholes provided	3
Defective sinks or washbasins repaired or renewed	15
Defective Electric Cookers repaired	39
Defective Electric Fridges repaired	9
Defective Electric Washboilers repaired	11
Defective Electric points and switches repaired or renewed	36
New Gas Cookers installed	10
Defective Gas Cookers repaired	15
Defective Gas Boilers or Geysers repaired	30
Defective Gas Pressure remedied	3
Defective Water supply remedied	8
Defective Water Tanks, Taps and Pipes repaired or renewed	64
Broken Glass replaced	11
New Draining Boards supplied	7

Defective Firegrates and Stoves repaired	65
Defective Gully Covers renewed	5
New Clothes Posts supplied	9
Chimney cowls fitted	10
Roadway repaired	1
Yards, Garden Paths, Gates and Fences repaired or renewed	67
Whole Houses re-decorated	16
Rooms redecorated	11
Offensive smells remedied	3
Accumulations cleared	4
Smoke nuisance remedied	1
Bathroom provided	1
Hot Water System installed	1
Cellulose Store provided	1
Dairy provided	1
Fascia Board renewed	1
Miscellaneous	20

HOUSING

Number of New Houses completed and occupied during the year—

(1) By the Town Council	31
(2) By Private Enterprise	33
	64

The thirty one Council Houses were sited as follows ;—

Seven Houses at Pynes Lane.

Sixteen Houses at Stucley Road.

Four Houses at High View.

Two Houses at Bowden Green.

Two Houses at Newton Road.

The number of new Council houses completed during the year was less than during the previous year. Following a review of the general position, the list of applicants for council house accommodation was considerably reduced by removing therefrom applications from persons resident outside the Borough and those from persons already occupying separate accommodation or accommodation considered suitable. This left the list standing at 78 applicants, including those already in council accommodation and wishing to transfer to alternative accommdation, and the Council there-upon decided to undertake no further building programme other than to meet the need for rehousing under Slum

Clearance and complete those houses already approved.

In spite of the fact some 72 families were provided with either new accommodation or transfers, there still remained 91 families on the list of applicants at the close of the year.

Comparing the above noted figures, one is compelled to wonder whether or not the Council ought to reconsider its decision with regards to the building of more council houses.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND INFECTION

The following cases of Infectious Diseases have been notified during the year ;—

Scarlet Fever	5
Measles	69
Tuberculosis	5
Pneumonia	1
Erysipelas	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	1

Number of houses disenfected for ;—

Notifiable Infectious Diseases	11
Tuberculosis	5

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

PART I. OF THE ACT.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	28	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	95	15	7	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	9	—	—	—
	132	15	7	—

2. Defects Found.

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	M/c line No.
		Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	8	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—							
(*a*) Insufficient	9	2	1	Nil	2	Nil	9
(*b*) Unsuitable or defective	10	5	5	Nil	5	Nil	10
(*c*) Not separate for sexes	11	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	12
TOTAL	60	7	6	Nil	7	Nil	60

Part VIII of the Act. OUTWORK. (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work.	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sect. 110(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council.	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome Premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel—Making, &c	201	—	—	—	—	—

RAINFALL

The Borough Surveyor kindly supplied the following particulars of the rainfall recorded at Gammaton and Jennetts for the year 1956.

	Gammaton	*Jennetts*
January	4.55	5.21
February	0.58	0.45
March	0.86	0.79
April	2.03	1.87
May	1.00	0.87
June	2.03	2.12
July	4.27	4.12
August	3.39	4.31
September	5.42	5.83
October	2.29	2.25
November	1.32	1.65
December	4.37	4.68
	32.11	34.15
	Inches	Inches

WATER SUPPLY

A satisfactory supply of water continued to be supplied by the Council from their two sources, namely Jennetts Reservoir and Gammaton Reservoir supplemented in the former case by water from the Yeo-Duntz stream pumped from Edge Mill to the reservoir and in the latter by water purchased in bulk from the North Devon Water Board and piped to the clear water tank at Gammaton. Raw waters were treated by filtration and all waters were chlorinated before passing into circulation; generally speaking the quality of the water has been satisfactory. In regard to quantity, at no time during the year was it found necessary to curtail supplies in spite of a very dry period during the first half of the year. Work of detecting leaks was carried out by the Water Department and this contributed considerably to the conservation of water. Complaints of an iodoform taste in the Gammaton water were remedied by regulating the treatment by chlorine.

Fifty-nine samples of water were taken from various points on the Jennetts supply and sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Exeter for Bacteriological examination. Two of these samples fell below the standard and the other fifty-seven samples were Class 1 of the Ministry of Health's classification for piped supplies.

Fifty-two samples of water were taken from various points on the Gammaton supply and sent for Bacteriological examination. Six of these samples fell below the standard and forty-six samples were Class 1 of the Ministry of Health's classification for piped supplies.

Four samples of water from Gammaton Higher and Lower Reservoirs and one sample of water from Jennetts Reservoir were submitted for Chemical Analysis. Each sample showed no evidence of any unusual constituents or abnormal qualities. They are soft waters but devoid of plumbo solvent activity.

PRIVATE SUPPLIES

Three samples of water were taken from one private well. Whilst one of these showed considerable bacterial contamination, the other two samples, taken following remedial action on the part of the owner, were very satisfactory being equivalent in standard to a Class 1 piped supply.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

No extensions or modifications to the Town's Sewerage System have been undertaken during the year.

A matter which has for some years given great concern to the Council has been the flooding of many properties on the north side of the Town during periods of heavy rain especially when these rains coincided with high tides in the river. After consultation with other Authorities concerned the Council approved a scheme, to combat this nuisance, as prepared by the Borough Engineer and Surveyor. The scheme was

to be put into operation in three phases, viz. 1. Preliminary clearing and regrading of culverts, streams and ditches; 2. the provision and installation of pumping arrangements; 3. improvements to drainage in the area. By the end of the year phase 1 was almost completed.

INSECT PESTS

Very little trouble was experienced from infestations. Two premises were disinfested for fleas and three premises, where wasp nests were causing bother, were treated.

Sixteen premises were treated for Woodlice.

Three premises were treated for flies.

The surface of the refuse tip was treated with "Tip Dressing" as a preventative measure against the breeding of flies.

RODENT CONTROL

During the year the testing and treatment of sewers was undertaken on two occasions. It was found however, that the sewers for the most part, were again comparatively free from infestation.

The Refuse Tip was frequently treated by pre-baiting and poisoned baits to exterminate rats, and this was generally successful.

Inspection of premises in the area continued and infestations found were treated by the Council's Rodent Operator. No charge was made for work done by the Council in respect of domestic premises.

Six hundred and fifty-five dwelling houses and 144 business premises were visited and treatment was carried out on 12 dwelling houses and 4 other premises for rats or mice.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The Council's slaughterhouse continued in the occupation of the North Devon Meat Marketing Society Ltd. whose throughput continued to increase. The requirements of butchers, not only in the town but in neighbouring districts and areas as far afield as Ilfracombe, Barnstaple Okehampton and Exeter and those of wholesale markets in London were satisfactorily catered for. Provision continued to be made also for individual butchers to have their livestock slaughtered.

During the year 26,188 animals were slaughtered and dressed at the Abattoir, and of these 69 Bullocks, 31 Calves, 40 Sheep and 156 Pigs were sent to the Abattoir for emergency slaughter.

In addition to the above, there were brought to the Abattoir the "dressed" carcases of 1 Bullock, 24 Sheep and 7 Pigs.

This is a large increase on the previous year's throughput. In addition to the usual diseases and conditions commonly found in animals slaughtered for food, cysticercus bovis continued to appear in cattle and 94 cases were found. In all circumstances, the parts found with visitble cysts were condemned, and the carcases sent away for refrigeration for the requisite period before being released for human consumption.

The "dressed" carcases were of animals that had been slaughtered and "dressed"at farms as the animals, because of injury or some other emergency, had been unable to travel to the Abattoir.

In one case only it was found necessary to seize the carcase and organs of a privately owned beast which was brought into the slaughterhouse for emergency slaughter. The carcase and offal were condemned under a Magistrate's Order but the Council decided not to take any other action against the owner.

STUNNING. In compliance with section 1 of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, all animals that are killed in the slaughterhouse are rendered insensible to pain by means of a mechanically operated instrument.

The following Tables give a summary of the work carried out ;—

TABLE A. Gives details of the animals killed and the number of carcases or organs condemned, also showing percentages of the carcases affected, differentiating between

1—All diseases except Tuberculosis.

2—Tuberculosis only.

3—Cysticercosis.

TABL B. Gives the weight of the Meat and Offal condemned and the causes of condemnation.

TABL C. Shows the amount of "Other Foodstuffs" condemned and the reasons for condemnation.

TABLE A.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle exclud'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ..., ...	2766	351	508	10589	11974	—
Dressed Carcases	1	—	—	24	7	—
Number inspected ...	2767	351	508	10613	11981	—
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	6	14	17	90	31	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2173	280	4	1801	1409	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	78.75	83.76	4.13	17.82	12.11	—
Tuberculosis Only.						
Whole carcases condemned	13	4	—	—	13	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	96	26	1	—	385	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	3.94	8.54	0.19	—	3.32	—
Cysticercosis.						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	82	11	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	82	8	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	1	—	—	—	—

‡ The three carcases not submitted to treatment by refrigeration were condemned for other reasons and are included elsewhere.

TABLE B SUMMARY OF MEAT CONDEMNATION WITH CAUSE OF CONDEMNATION AND WEIGHT

Food Stuffs Condemned	Cause of Condemnation	Whole Carcases	Part carcases	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Beef	Tuberculosis	17	—	4	8	2	8				
Beef parts	Do.	—	21	1	17	1	6				
Beef offal	Do.	—	101	1	7	1	21				
Beef	Other Causes	21	—	4	5	2	26				
Beef parts	Do.	—	25	1	8	0	12				
Beef offal	Do.	—	2428	13	19	2	0				
								27	6	2	17
Veal	Tuberculosis	—	1	—	—	—	20				
Veal	Other Causes	17	—	—	7	1	20				
Veal offal	Do.	—	4	—	—	1	6				
								—	7	3	18
Pork	Tuberculosis	13	—	—	18	0	25				
Pork parts	Do.	—	383	2	6	2	20				
Pork offal	Do.	—	2	—	—	—	20				
Pork	Other Causes	31	—	1	8	3	22				
Pork parts	Do.	—	50	—	10	1	9				
Pork offal	Do.	—	1359	1	18	0	6				
								7	2	1	18
Mutton	Fevered	25	—	—	14	2	15				
Do.	Emaciation..	22	—	—	8	3	22				
Do.	Toxaemia	9	—	—	5	3	12				
Do.	Oedema	7	—	—	4	1	4				
Do.	Do.	—	3	—	—	1	23				
Do.	Pneumonia	6	—	—	3	1	5				
Do.	Do.	—	5	—	1	2	19				
Do.	Moribund	5	—	—	3	1	15				
Do.	Septicaemia	5	—	—	3	3	12				
Do.	Injuries	4	—	—	2	0	7				
Do.	Do.	—	36	—	3	1	17				
Do.	Pyaemia	3	—	—	1	2	14				
Do.	Acute Mastitis	1	—	—	—	3	13				
Do.	Septic Nephritis	1	—	—	—	2	27				
Do.	Abscess	1	—	—	—	2	9				
Do.	Do.	—	3	—	—	—	25				
Do.	Pyelonephritis	1	—	—	—	1	17				
Do.	Arthritis	—	5	—	—	—	20				
Mutton Offal	Distoma Hepaticum Cysts and Congestion ..		1749	1	14	2	3				
								4	10	3	27
								39	7	3	24

TABLE C. OTHER FOOD STUFFS

Foodstuffs Condemned	Cause of Condemnation	Tons	cwts	qrs.	lbs.	ozs.
119 Tins of Meat	Tins blown or decomposition ..	—	3	2	27	8
312 Tins of Vegetables	Do.	—	2	1	18	10
16 Tins of Soup	Do.	—	—	—	14	6½
8 Tins of Fish	Do.	—	—	—	7	10
1 Barrel of Fish	Do.	—	—	1	23	0
172 Tins of Fruit..	Tins blown. damaged or perforated ..	—	2	2	0	4¼
35 Tins of Milk	Do.	—	—	1	0	12
24 Tins of Spaghetti	Do, ...	—	—	—	23	8
1 Tin of Creamed Rice	Do.	—	—	—	—	15½
1 Tin of Chicken	Do.	—	—	—	3	12
6 Tins of Jam	Do.	—	—	—	9	8
9½ Boxes of Cheese Spread ..	Mouldy	—	—	—	13	13
1 Jar of Chicken Paste	Do.	—	—	—	—	2
3 Jars of Fish Paste	Do.	—	—	—	—	8½
11 Jars of Meat Paste	Do.	—	—	—	1	1¼
1 Carton of Prunes	Do.	—	—	1	2	0
1 Jar of Olives	Do.	—	—	—	—	6
2 Tins of Ovaltine Tablets ..	Sticky and runned together	—	—	—	—	3
8 Packets of Butter	Rancid	—	—	—	4	0
3 Packets of Lard	Squashed and dirty	—	—	—	1	8
Dates	Fermenting	—	—	—	23	0
Ground Rice	Musty and contaminated by mice ..	—	—	—	11	0
Dried Shredded Carrots	Musty and contaminated by moth ..	—	—	—	14	8
40 Bars of Milk Chocolate ..	Contaminated with Disinfectant	—	—	—	10	0
6 Packets of Currants	Infested with Maggots	—	—	—	4	8
Pieces of Frozen Beef	Bone Taint	—	—	—	13	0
	TOTAL		11	0	6	2

The number of food premises in this area , by type of business is ;—

a.

Bakehouses	4
Butchers shops	19
Cafes and Restaurants including Fish Saloons	23
Confectioners	24
Fish and Chip Shop	2
Fishmongers	5
Greengrocers	22
Grocers and Provisions Dealers	44
Market	1

b. 10 Premises are registered for the manufactore or storage of preserved foods ;

36 premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice cream. One storage premises is a wholesale store supplying other retailers. Ice cream sold from all retail premises is pre-packed.

1 premise is registered for the manufacture of ice cream using the cold mix method of manufacture.

c. Condemned food is disposed of as follows ;—

i. tinned foods and small quantities of provisions are taken by the Council's cleansing department and buried at the bottom of the refuse tip ;

ii. condemned meat from butcher shops is collected and taken to the slaughterhouse where it is collected together with condemnations from the slaughterhouse by a firm who has given an undertaking to the Council that the material taken will be reduced to fats or converted to fertilizers.

d. Food Hygiene Regulations 1955—1956.

85 visits were made to premises and where it was found necessary wash-hand basins,sinks and supplies of hot and cold water were provided. Cases have been found where premises are so congested with their neighbours that the provision of necessary facilities is most difficult, if not impossible. A better picture as to the extent of this problem will be formed when a survey of premises is completed. One shop in which it was impossible to comply closed as a food premises.

The Council have installed in the Pannier Market for use of the stallholders two wash-hand basins with hot and cold water and it is proposed that a sink and washhand basin with hot and cold water will be provided in the Butcher's Row.

MILK SUPPLY

The registration of producers and producer|retailers has continued to be the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. There are five producer|retailers within the area.

There are ten distributors of milk within the area one of whom is a large dairy which is licensed by the Food and Drugs Authority for its pasteurisation of milk which is sold by them both wholesale and retail.

Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1949 to 1954

The Milk Depot in the Town has a dealer's licence authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" and there are also three other dealers within the Town licensed to sell "Tuberculin Tested" milk all of whom obtain their supplies from the depot. This milk is obtained from farms where Tuberculin Tested Herds are kept and strict control is made at the dairy to ensure that ungraded milk is not mixed with "Tuberculin Tested" milk. It is worthwhile to note that all milk arriving at the depot including "Tuberculin Tested" milk is pasteurised by the High Temperature Short Time process before distribution.

There are seven dealers in the area using the special designation "Pasteurised" all of whom obtain their milk from the depot. One Supplementary licence has been issued authorising a dealer outside the area to sell "Tuberculin Tested" milk within the district.

There are three premises registered as a Dairy.

PETROLEUM LICENCES

Thirty-eight Petroleum storage licences were issued during the year.

I wish to thank all members and officials of the Corporation and especially Dr. Carey and the Staff in my office for their help and consideration during the year.

I am,

Mr. Mayor and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

A. E. T. NETTING

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
LIBRARY